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AP photographer Altgens dies

DALLAS (AP) - Photographer James W. "Ike" Altgens, who documented President Kennedy's assassination for The Associated Press, has died. He was 76.

A relative found the bodies of Mr. Altgens and his wife, Clara, in their home Tuesday, police said.

Nephew Ron Grant said the family believes both died of natural causes. Neighbors had noticed that the couple had not been outside since Sunday and both had been suffering from the flu.

Autopsies were ordered and toxicology tests were under way to determine the cause of death, said Laurie Nazareno of the Dallas County Medical Examiner's Office.

Mr. Altgens was taking pictures of the Kennedy motorcade downtown at Dealey Plaza on Nov. 22, 1963, when the president was shot.

Mr. Altgens raced to a telephone and provided the first word to AP editors that Kennedy had been struck by gunfire and seriously wounded.

He also took a famous photo of Mrs. Kennedy on her hands and knees on the trunk of the car and an agent climbing onto the rear bumper.

An AP bulletin quoted Mr. Altgens as saying he thought someone had set off fireworks until he saw blood on the president's head.